

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05900 021455Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 USSS-00 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 VO-03

SCA-01 INSE-00 /092 W

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R 021250Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4451

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS ANKARA 5900

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (ECEVIT, BULENT), TU, US

SUBJECT: CONTINUING TURKISH PRESS REACTION TO ATTEMPT
ON ECEVIT

REF: (A) ANKARA 5861, (B) ANKARA 5846

1. TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF THE ECEVIT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT
DIMINISHED GREATLY DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. THE MAJOR
EXCEPTION TO THIS TREND IS MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET WHICH
HAS WELL-ESTABLISHED REPUTATION FOR SENSATIONAL COVERAGE
OF ANY STORY HAVING ANTI-GREEK POTENTIAL. HURRIYET
AUGUST 2 CARRIES HEADLINE STORY CLAIMING THAT THE ATTEMPTED
ASSASSINATION WAS ORDERED BY THE GREEK NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE. THE STORY, WHICH IS WRITTEN BY CEM BASAR AND
DATELINED ATHENS, ALLEGES THAT THE ASSAILANT, STAVROS
SYKOPETRIDES, HAD BEEN RECRUITED BY THE GREEK NATIONAL
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INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IN NICOSIA SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND

THAT HE HAD WORKED FIRST IN NICOSIA AND LATER IN ATHENS. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, HE WAS ISSUED A SMITH AND WESSON PISTOL WITH A SILENCER WHILE IN NICOSIA. HIS IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S. WAS ALLEGEDLY ARRANGED BY THE GREEK NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE BECAUSE HIS LIFE WAS ENDANGERED BY HIS WORK IN ATHENS. THE STORY ALSO CLAIMS THAT WHILE IN NEW YORK, SYKOPETRIDES HAS LIVED QUITE WELL DESPITE NO APPARENT MEANS OF SUPPORT AND THAT HE HAS HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH AN OFFICER OF THE GREEK CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK.

2. THE ONLY OTHER NOTEWORTHY PUBLIC COMMENTARY OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS MADE BY FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE, YANKI. CAGLAYANGIL SAID "THE FACT THAT THE ASSASSIN IS A GREEK IS NOT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO HOLD GREECE RESPONSIBLE." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SILENCE OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IN THE WAKE OF THIS INCIDENT, WHICH WAS PERPETRATED BY A "GREEK NATIONAL, CANNOT BE CONSIDERED NORMAL BEHAVIOR." SEE REF B)
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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